

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling transfer of health information along a network pathway, the method comprising:
receiving, by an access server on the network pathway, a request for the health information from across an internal network, the request being generated from a portable healthcare device on the network pathway;
immediately determining, by the access server, if a corresponding consent is stored in the access server and whether the consent satisfies requirements for release of the health information, wherein the consent is for a requestor of the health information to access the health information and the consent is provided by an owner of the health information, wherein the consent is based on results provided by a filtering component, the filtering component to filter the health information based on the request such that an unnecessary portion of the health information is filtered out, wherein the request includes an intended use of the health information, wherein the intended use of the health information of the request is used to determine appropriateness of the consent or requirements for the consent, wherein a purpose field is provided to specify intended reasons for which the health information is accessed according to the consent; and
if the corresponding consent is stored, permitting, by the access server, the health information to be immediately acquired by sending the request across an external network to a remote site, receiving the health information from the remote site, and forwarding the health information back across the internal network, and electronically communicating the health information between the portable healthcare device and a health professional device.

wherein communicating the health information includes one or more of prescribing prescriptions, accessing patient medical history, accessing medical test results, submitting order claims, purchasing medicine.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the forwarding of the health information is to the portable healthcare device.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein if no corresponding consent is stored, further including sending a notice to the portable healthcare device.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further including receiving, by the access server, the appropriate consent from the portable healthcare device and permitting the health information to be immediately acquired by sending the request across an external network to a remote site, receiving the health information from the remote site, and forwarding the health information back across the internal network.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the corresponding consent is fingerprint data, retinal data, voice data, or a digital signature data and further including comparing the corresponding consent with stored consent data.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including determining if consent is required prior to the determining if a corresponding consent is stored, and if the consent is not required, permitting the health information to be immediately acquired by sending the request across an external network to a remote site, receiving the health information from the remote site, and forwarding the health information back across the internal network.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the remote site is a pharmacy benefit manager.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further including determining, by the access server, the suitability of a corresponding consent.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further including placing, by an interface, the request in a wrapper for acceptance by a next segment in the network pathway towards the remote site.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further including unwrapping, by the interface, the health information received from across the external network.
11. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a server computer system having a processor and a storage medium coupled with the processor, the server computer system further having an internal network port, a server interface, and a consent processing system, the consent processing system having a consent database and a search engine coupled with the consent database, the server computer system having the internal network port to receive a request for health information from a portable healthcare device, the request issued by a user of the portable healthcare device;
the consent database to store consents corresponding to health information;
the search engine to determine if a corresponding consent is stored in the database for the requested health information and, if the corresponding consent exists, whether it satisfies requirements for release of the health information, wherein the consent is for the user to access the health

information and the consent is provided by an owner of the health information, wherein the consent is based on results provided by a filtering component, the filtering component to filter the health information based on the request such that an unnecessary portion of the health information is filtered out, wherein the request includes an intended use of the health information, wherein the intended use of the health information of the request is used to determine appropriateness of the consent or requirements for the consent, wherein a purpose field is provided to specify intended reasons for which the health information is accessed in according to the consent; and

the server interface to prepare the request for receipt by a next segment in the network pathway towards a remote site, and to prepare the health information sent in response from the remote site to be received by a next segment in the network pathway towards the user, and electronically communicating the health information between the portable healthcare device and a health professional device, wherein communicating the health information includes one or more of prescribing prescriptions, accessing patient medical history, accessing medical test results, submitting order claims, purchasing medicine.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further including a consent analysis unit to determine the suitability of a corresponding consent.
13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further including a request identification unit to determine the appropriate remote site to receive the request.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further including a health information identification unit to determine what type of information is received.
15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further including an application unit to determine an appropriate software application program for the health information to be entered into.
16. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed, cause a machine to:
- process a request for the health information received from across an internal network, the request being generated from a portable healthcare device on the internal network;
- immediately determine, by an access server on the internal network, if an corresponding consent is stored in the access server and whether the consent satisfies requirements for release of the health information, wherein the consent is for a requestor of the health information to access the health information and the consent is provided by an owner of the health information, wherein the consent is based on results provided by a filtering component, the filtering component to filter the health information based on the request such that an unnecessary portion of the health information is filtered out, wherein the request includes an intended use of the health information, wherein the intended use of the health information of the request is used to determine appropriateness of the consent or requirements for the consent, wherein a purpose field is provided to specify intended reasons for which the health information is accessed in according to the consent; and

if the corresponding consent is stored, permit the health information to be immediately acquired by sending the request across an external network to a remote site, receiving the health information from the remote site, and forwarding the health information back across the internal network, and electronically communicating the health information between the portable healthcare device and a health professional device, wherein communicating the health information includes one or more of prescribing prescriptions, accessing patient medical history, accessing medical test results, submitting order claims, purchasing medicine.

17. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the forwarding of the health information is to the portable healthcare device.
18. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 16, if no corresponding consent is stored, further including additional instructions which when executed further cause the machine to send a notice to the portable healthcare device.
19. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 18, if no corresponding consent is stored, further including additional instructions which when executed further cause the machine to receive the appropriate consent from the portable healthcare device and to permit the health information to be immediately acquired by sending the request across an external network to a remote site, receiving the health information from the remote site, and forwarding the health information back across the internal network.

20. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the corresponding consent is fingerprint data, retinal data, voice data, or a digital signature data and further including comparing the corresponding consent with stored consent data.
21. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 16, further including additional instructions which when executed further cause the machine to determine if consent is required and if the consent is not required, to permit the health information to be immediately acquired by sending the request across an external network to a remote site, receiving the health information from the remote site, and forwarding the health information back across the internal network.
22. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 16, further including additional instructions which when executed further cause the machine to determine the suitability of a corresponding consent.
23. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 16, further including additional instructions which when executed further cause the machine to placing the request in a wrapper for acceptance by a next segment in the network pathway towards the remote site.
24. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 23, further including additional instructions which when executed further cause the machine to interrupt a processor to unwrap health information received from across and external network.

25.-27. (Canceled)